REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14, 16-21 and 25-28 are pending upon entry of the above amendment. Consideration on the merits is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

Applicant has elected Claim Group I (claims 1-11) and Species A (Figs. 1-4). Further, amendments have been made to claims 12-14, 16-21, and 25 so that these claims are dependent on generic base claim 1 and should also be considered. Further, new claim 26 is dependent on base claim 1 and should be considered. Further, new claims 27 and 28 are closely related to the subject matter of claim 1 and therefore should be considered.

Also attached is a supplemental IDS disclosing Patent No. 5,358,269. This IDS is being submitted prior to an Office Action on the merits, and accordingly, no fee is due. Nonetheless, it is noted that the Patent Office is authorized to charge the undersigned's depository account 16 2463, if necessary.

Consideration on the merits is respectfully requested and a Notice of Allowability earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

DARIN EVANS

By: Price, Heneveld, Cooper,
DeWitt & Litton, LLP

May 18, '04
Date

Daniel L. Girdwood
Registration No. 34 827
695 Kenmoor, S.E.
Post Office Box 2567
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501
(616) 949-9610

DLG/dlc